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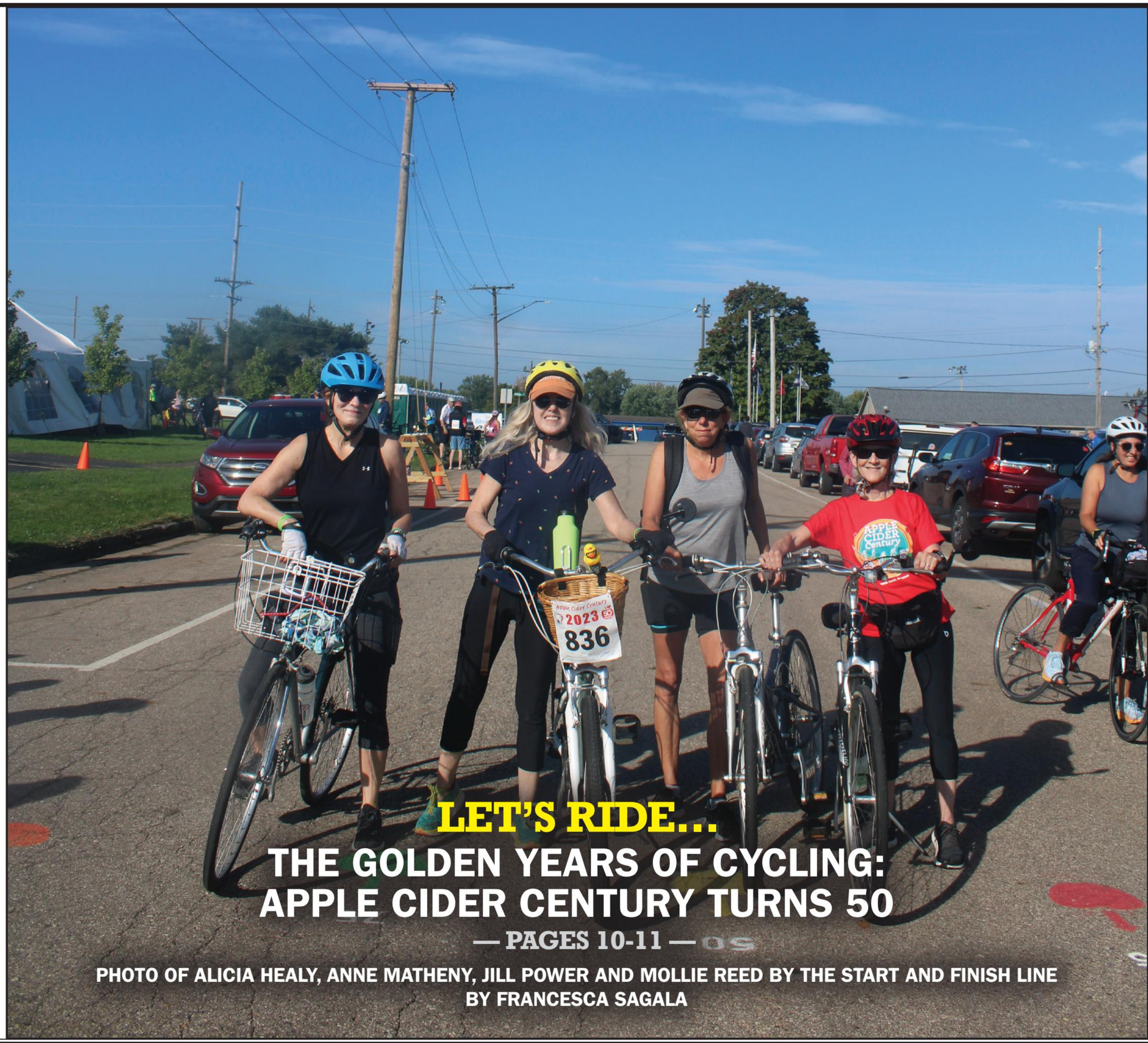

LET'S RIDE...

THE GOLDEN YEARS OF CYCLING: APPLE CIDER CENTURY TURNS 50

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PHOTO OF ALICIA HEALY, ANNE MATHENY, JILL POWER AND MOLLIE REED BY THE START AND FINISH LINE
BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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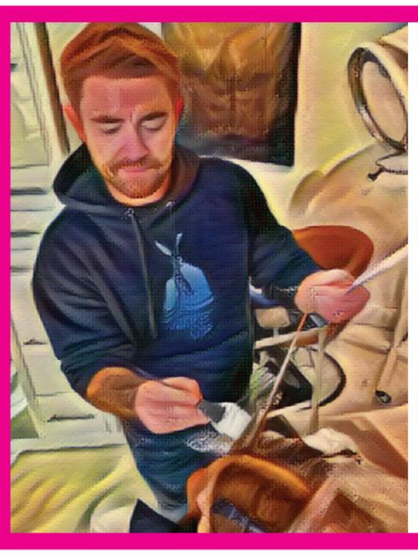

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How many Michiganders read newspapers?

Michigan has more miles of freshwater shoreline than any state in the nation, is the second-most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, is home to more than 115 lighthouses, and 5 million newspaper readers. Really?

Really. Every month, 85% of Michigan adults read newspapers' print and online issues, according to a new Michigan Market Study conducted by Coda Ventures in partnership with Michigan Press Association Services. The study measures media usage and purchase behavior of Michigan adults across urban and rural zip codes.

The 5 million Michigan newspaper readers number might not come as a surprise to you. After all, you are reading a newspaper right now. You are in the majority of Michigan citizens who value your newspaper's local news and ads.

Who are these 5 million Michigan newspaper readers? Coda reports:

- 77% are under age 65,
- 63% are homeowners,
- 91% believe they have a responsibility to shape the future of their communities,
- 91% vote in local elections, 82% vote in state and national elections,
- 80% believe newspaper advertising is important,
- 94% take action as a result of newspaper advertising,
- 62% use newspapers to decide which products to buy,
- 70% have lived in the community 5 or more years,
- 88% of the people believe that publishing public notices in newspapers should be required,
- 70% of the people plan to travel within Michigan in the past/next 12 month at least one time

Michiganders say they rely on local newspapers as their primary source of news and information about schools, local government, high school sports, local entertainment, candidates/ballot issues, crime and safety.

Michigan citizens rely on newspapers for local advertising, too. Most, 94%, said they take action on newspaper ads.

Michigan's lofty newspaper readership and action taken on newspaper ads is impressive. It makes sense readers who vote want to learn about local elections, learn about the candidates running, and learn about local issues from a trustworthy local news source. Wise candidates and businesses buy ads in these same news pages where 80% of its readers believe newspaper ads are important.

Michigan is home to approximately 220 newspapers. All but one of Michigan's 83 counties have a newspaper. Most counties have multiple newspapers.

When a community lacks reporters as watchdogs, studies show that local government pays more for bond interest, voter turnout is lower and partisanship increases.

Michigan's 5 million newspaper readers could fill up Ford Field's 65,000 seats 76 times and still have a waiting line. Picture 76 Ford Field Stadiums. That's a lot of readers.

This week, many newspapers across the country will be celebrating National Newspaper Week. If your subscription is due, help your local newspaper celebrate by renewing. If you own a business, help your local newspaper celebrate by purchasing an ad. At the very least, reach out to the editor or publisher at your local newspaper and thank them for all they do in the community and for providing you with the most reliable source for local news and information.

— MPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An evil life is a kind of death.* — *Ovid

TOWN SQUARE

LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

THE VIEWS HERE DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*. THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* ASKS THAT YOUR LETTER TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*, BE UNIQUE, KIND AND BASED ON REASONED FACTS. THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOT PUBLISH ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR ANY REASON. PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS TO 300 WORDS OR FEWER. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LETTER TO INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM. THANK YOU.

New Buffalo Times
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LAKESIDE OWNERS QUESTION AEP REBUILD PROJECT...

East Road, in Chikaming Township between Three Oaks Rd and the Red Arrow Highway, is lined with over 75 homes and two nature conservancies. Similarlypopulated residential roads, such as Warren Woods, Lakeside or Youngren Roads nearby, have not historically been marred by the presence of high voltage transmission line poles, nor are they being asked to receive the proposed industrial-strength replacements.

Many residents along East Rd. have observed the periodic replacement of individual transmission line poles with new poles of identical dimensions and material, as recently as 2022. Therefore, East Rd. residents believe the complete replacement of poles is unwarranted. AEP should simply continue in the same manner of maintenance as noted.

In contrast to that approach, which would do no harm to the immediate environment, the proposed large steel poles, regardless of color, would dwarf the primarily single story homes along the road. The increased easements to facilitate installation and maintenance would decimate the wooded character of the road, destroying numerous mature trees and front yards, reducing property values in the process, and result in many homes losing entirely the sense of privacy and tranquility valued by everyone who has chosen to live here.

In conclusion, we wish to go a step further and request that AEP actuallydecommission the high voltage lines along this road altogether, righting a wrong in place for over two generations. In choosing to do so AEP, instead of unnecessarilyturning a beloved residential road into a utility highway, would be making a positive contribution to the East Rd. community.

— EAST ROAD PROPERTY OWNERS COMMITTEE: DON MECKLEY, RUSS LYMAN, ROXANE MCLEAN, DON MACGREGOR, LESLIE JONES

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Grand Beach Village council members discuss ADA compliant Pine Avenue beach viewing platform

APPROVE HANDICAP PARKING FOR VILLAGE HALL UPPER LEVEL

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council discussed two topics with regards to making the village more ADA compliant at their Wednesday, Sept. 20, meeting.

At the last meeting, council members approved an ADA compliant Pine Avenue Beach viewing platform being lowered 42 inches at the lakefront at the bluff; however, upon further inspection, council president Harry Walder said that this can't be done.

He said that he hadn't taken into account that "when you stand at the edge of the bluff, the platform is 42 inches below you - you're going to fall onto it because that solution said the rail did not come above the bluff."

Walder added that they could make the platform ADA compliant but they're going to have to have handrails at the bluff.

"You have to lower it and slide it out away from the bluff or you have to have handrails, you have to put it level with the bluff and you'll see the handrails... When you slide it out you won't have ADA compliance because now you're going to have a ramp that you're going to go down - if you can build a ramp," he said, adding that "you're still going to see the handrails."

Councilmember and parks and beaches commissioner Peter Doerr said that he's "not voting on anything that isn't ADA compliant."

He added that his group identified when he first came on the council certain access points they wanted to make ADA compliant and that it's ridiculous not to make that "wide, wide" access point compliant. Doerr said that there are trees growing up there that are higher than the railings that are on the village's property.

"If you guys are sacrificing a couple people's views on our property for ADA compliance, I'm so against it...We need to make all accesses accessible to people in any condition," he said.

A motion failed 3-2 approving the original ELD Construction proposal, with the platform being built at grade with its handrail 42 inches high and that the platform will start at the bluff and go out 16 feet toward the water, with councilmembers James Bracewell and Blake O'Halloran voting "nay." Four votes in favor of the motion are needed for a budget increase.

Walder said he'll be emailing residents if they're interested in volunteering on a committee to recommend future use and improvements on the village hall and surrounding area.

In a 4-1 vote (Bracewell voted "nay"), c

Ouncilmembers approved handicap parking at the upper level of the hall, as well as a fence around the generator and condenser and striping for the handicap parking and golf carts, at a cost not to exceed $10,000, with the money to come out of the fund balance in the general fund.

Walder said he looked at the space with superintendent Bob Dabbs and that they can fit the spots without removing any trees. There would be three handicap spots and four for golf carts. Timber would be used to frame out the area. A fence would be put around the generator and condenser and protection would be put along one side of the access road.

Bracewell said that, "as an alternative," he's suggesting installing an elevator.

"Everything I read here keeps saying future use and improvements to the hall and surrounding area and I feel that would be a future use and an improvement in finally putting in an elevator that should've been put in many years ago," he said.

Councilmembers agreed to discuss it further, with Ed Brandes saying that the committee to investigate future use of the hall could look into it.

"I think this is a great start but obviously working on making this safe and accessible is not done," he said, adding that it's cost effective but they needed to continue.

At a previous meeting, resident Mike Kelly had given information to the council regarding the state requiring the village to have a capital improvement program. Clerk Mary Robertson said that the village does have one; however, it's not at the level of detail to which Kelly was referring and Walder will be assigning it to the Planning Commission.

Courage is knowing what not to fear.
— Plato

Walder said that the village's charter needs work and he'll be asking the village's attorney how to best proceed.

Councilmembers agreed that Walder would be writing a monthly or bimonthly newsletter to residents, which councilmembers will review before it's sent out.

Councilmembers approved awarding a contract in the amount of $700 to Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management to prepare a submission for a matching grant from the state in the amount of $10,000

Walder said that Steve Lane, who would prepare the submission, from Great Lakes would then catalog all the trees on public property at an initial cost between $4,000 and $5,000.

Walder added that Nancy Wendling created a draft tree ordinance, which he'd send to them as well as the village attorney.

Councilmembers adopted a water cross connection ordinance. Walder said that this is a state requirement and the village will hire an outside firm to check for cross connections in every home or irrigation and swimming pool in the village.

Councilmembers adopted an ordinance to amend Ordinance 52 to repeal the requirement for periodic swimming pool inspections.

Councilmembers approved increasing the water tap fee for new homes from $5,000 to $7500.

A replacement pump at the pumphouse that pumps water up to the golf course tank at Sky High for $19,400 from Peerless Midwest was approved.

A daily rate of $5,150, with a total cost not to exceed $26,000, from Lindhal Marine was approved. O'Halloran said that they've found the intake pipe in the lake and it's clogged; however, they have a company that can unclog it.

Councilmembers approved contributing $1,216.67 to deputy clerk Kathy Wolnik's health savings account.

Experience all the bounty of Southwest Michigan at the 17th Annual New Buffalo Harvest & Wine Fest

SPEND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY WEEKEND IN HARBOR COUNTRY

In Southwest Michigan, nothing says autumn quite like the harvesting of fully ripened crops and plump fruits. In preparation and celebration of this plentiful season, the New Buffalo Business Association is hosting its 17th annual New Buffalo Harvest & Wine Fest from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, in downtown New Buffalo along Whittaker Street between Merchant and Mechanic streets.

Representing all that the season has to offer, the Harvest & Wine Fest boasts an abundance of family-friendly activities, including nonstop live music, unique art and makers vendors, farm market vendors, award-winning wines from Southwest Michigan, local beer and hard cider, tasty fare from area restaurants and food trucks, pumpkin painting, kid's games with prizes and more. There is truly something for everyone, so bring the entire family.

Live music includes The Ron Burgundys at 7 p.m., Top Secret Band at 4:30 p.m., The Edgar Willbury Experience at 2:30p.m. and Ultrafab at 12:30p.m.

Planned over Indigenous Peoples Day weekend for those with an extended three-day weekend, the New Buffalo Harvest & Wine Fest will serve as a focal-point in downtown New Buffalo. Come for the day and stay for the weekend. Suggested lodging is at harvestandwinefest.com.

A suggested donation at the gate is $10 per person and children 12 and under are free.

For updates and more information, visit www.newbuffalo.org or call 888-660-6222. The event can't be run without volunteers and candidates are still being accepted on the website.

For more information, contact Colleen Neubauer at 773-791-1809 or cryan.pr@gmail.com. — STAFF REPORTS/PHOTO SUPPLIED BY *NEW BUFFALO EXPLORED*

POLICE CATCH DRUG USER FLEEING GO CART

A man on a go-cart with drugs was captured during a foot chase.in a La Porte neighborhood.

Eric Powell, 43, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with felony possession of methamphetamine and other counts like misdemeanor resisting law enforcement.

About midnight on Sept. 20, police said an officer spotted a go-cart southbound on Lawrence St.

The driver after seeing the officer locked the brakes and turned before stopping when the engine died on Jefferson Avenue.

Powell was trying to restart the engine when the approaching officer asked what he was doing.

According to court documents, Powell kept placing his hands in and out of his pockets despite commands to keep them in plain view.

Eventually, Powell after found with a plastic baggie containing over three grams of methamphetamine took off running, police said.

Police said he was chased between several houses for about a block when grabbed outside a home where he tripped and broke a railing, plexiglass window and flower pot.

The officer had to apply force to place him into handcuffs, and a search of his backpack allegedly turned up a glass smoking pipe, according to court documents. — STAN MADDUX

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board accepts bids for elementary kitchen project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved four bids for the elementary school kitchen and renovation project at their Monday, Sept. 25, meeting.

Representatives from TowerPinkster, Skillman, and New Buffalo AreaSchools conducted pre-award conferences with apparent low bidders Sept. 20. Based on the post-bid review and analysis, Skillman recommended proceeding with awarding contracts to the following contractors for their Base Bid amounts: General Trades, Gibson Lewis - $1,605,300; Mechanical, Ace Plumbing and Heating - $355,326;; Electrical, Linear Electric - $494,700 and Food Service Equipment, Staford Smith - $382,258 for a total bid amount of $ 2,837,584.

David Taylor, senior project manager from The Skillman Corporation, said that Skillman was proposing to mobilize on the site and get it secure and ready for construction and, if permits are available, to begin construction in late October.

The plan is for the project to be completed by the end of August 2024.

Board members accepted the 2022-2023 audit as presented from Kruggel Lawton & Company, LLC.

Regarding the General Fund, total revenues were $19.1 million, with 82% of that being from local sources, which was about $15.7 million. Total expenditures were $16.2 million, with about 51% of that being from instruction, which came to about $8.4 million.

Regarding actual and budgeted results for the year that ended June 30, the district had budgeted for $19,129,227 in revenues and the actual amount was $19,180,947, so it was $51,000 over budget. The budgeted amount for expenditures was $16,726,421 and the actual amount was about $470,000 under budget at $16,249,220. The budgeted amount for the fund balance was $4,021,797 and the actual amount was $4,550,668.

As of June 30, the district has 3.3 months of operation in expenditures.

Board members adopted the reimbursement resolution for the 2023 school building and site project. The resolution states that all the "payments of expenses initially to be made for the Project with funds other than proceeds of the 2023 or 2024 School Building and Site Bonds (the "Bonds") and then to be reimbursed by the District from proceeds of the Bonds will be for costs of a type properly chargeable to the capital account of the project under general income tax principles, non-recurring working capital expenditures (of a type not customarily payable from current revenues), or costs of issuing the Bonds."

Board members adopted the 2023 school building and site bond authorization resolution.Business manager Pano Arvanitis said that the resolution gives him and superintendent Adam Bowen the authority to issue "up to $6 million worth of bonds."

He added that the district is going out to bond for the kitchen project and the school safety one, which involves installing key cards as well as electronic locks for all the doors in the district.

Board members approved and authorized Dr. Michael Lindley to sign the agreement for the Juul settlement with Altria on behalf of New Buffalo Area Schools. Bowen said the district was awarded $2,524, which will be used to "help school spirit."

Board members approved the Social Media Litigation agreement. Bowen said that the "coordinated lawsuits are against social media platforms" for "allegedly causing harm to students" that use them. He added that, according to experts, "manipulative algorithms cause significant interference with the educational process and emotional learning."

The Articles of Incorporation for the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority were approved.

Innovation doesn't come from the big company. It never has and never will.
Innovation is something new that looks crazy at first glance.
It comes from the 19-year-olds and the start-ups that no one's heard of.
—Marc Andreessen

New Buffalo, River Valley school boards approve cooperative sports agreement, merging of high school sports

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education and the River Valley Schools Board of Education approved the Cooperative Sports Agreement between River Valley and New Buffalo Area Schools for Girls Softball Grades 9-12 and approved and adopted the proposed Order of Merging for all high school sports beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and being complete at the end of the 2026-2027 school year at a joint special session meeting Monday, Sept. 25

New Buffalo Athletic Director Matt Johnson said that town hall meetings around the topic of co-oping were held this past spring.

While the conversation centered around girls basketball and softball earlier this year, people also asked why just those sports were being considered for co-ops.

Both school boards asked a Cooperative Program Oversight Committee (CPOC) consisting of both athletic directors, staff members and coaches to form to investigate co-oping sports between the two districts.

Earlier this month, an executive team composed of the Board of Education members from both districts, both superintendents, both athletic directors, and teacher/coaches from both districts met to discuss the CPOC committee's findings.

The CPOC committee work suggested the following high school sports co-oping over the next four years: 2023-2024, softball; 2024-2025, girls basketball and golf; 2025-2026, volleyball, boys/girls track and baseball and 2026-2027, boys basketball/cheer, boys/girls cross country, tennis and soccer.

The CPOC committee work suggested the following high school sports co-oping over the next four years: 2023-2024, softball; 2024-2025, girls basketball and golf; 2025-2026, volleyball, boys/girls track and baseball and 2026-2027, boys basketball/cheer, boys/girls cross country, tennis and soccer.

Johnson said that historical trends between the two schools over the last 14 years show that they've lost between 30 and 40% of the school population "yet, the offerings we have haven't changed.

Softball was a priority, as New Buffalo had to cancel theirs last season and River Valley got the numbers after recruiting players, ending up with 14 for the season.

Neither program fielded a junior varsity program. Johnson said that combining the sports would provide the potential to reestablish a program for most, if not all, sports in the future.

"More kids would have the opportunity to play at the level on par with their ability, which would result in more appropriate development," he said.

Merging would provide a better overall experience, as athletes and coaches would "get better competition amongst ourselves." The ability level of athletes on the team would increase because of competition as well as their accountability.

Students would follow the academic guidelines for their respective schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

An effort would be made to alternate practices between schools on a weekly basis; however, the conduciveness of each facility to practices and games would also be considered.

Regarding the mascot, Johnson said it's recommended that the Raiders, the football team co-op's mascot, be used for now; however, community input may be solicited in the future.

Academic standards were also discussed, with Johnson saying that current guidelines will stay in place for each respective school for softball this year; however, a common eligibility standard would be in place with the merging of all sports. Beginning the fall and spring seasons, a 1.5 cumulative GPA and no more than one F would be required to begin the season, which Johnson said is a "happy medium between New Buffalo and River Valley standard now." Eligibility checks would be on a three week cycle.

Regarding transportation, Johnson said that they still needed input but that it was being proposed that the athletic director of the lead school would communicate with transportation directors of both school districts to determine an equitable solution for events and practices. If there are enough athletes in sports that the need arises to move between both schools on a daily basis, a dedicated driver may need to be hired to transport students between the schools. The cost to hire the driver may be approximately $58,000. A last option would be coaches obtaining CDLs if they're willing.

Johnson said there's concerns that athletes won't be able to compete in Division 3; however he said that he believes that this "depends on the sport."

He added that there's disadvantages to being a small school in Division 4 when "going up the levels' of the division, as they don't have the resources that are in big city parochial schools and that those schools are also able to provide their athletes scholarships. Division 3 mostly involves competing against public schools and then there's Division 2 and 1.

Student Lily Morris, a softball player at River Valley, said that a petition has been circulated that states why the combination is "not the correct route for our program." She cited concerns about students who are dual athletes and may have to choose between two sports, that moving up a division will force them to play against larger schools with more athletes.

Referring to football, she said when you combine one sport, it "doesn't take away our identity, we're still a team."

"But when combining multiple sports, that's a different story - we're still Mustangs, we play to represent the community and one school," she said.

Ava Johnson, a student athlete at New Buffalo, said that she's a dual athlete, playing track and softball in the spring.

She added that a junior varsity program is "very important" and that there's "so much value" for the development of freshmen and sophomores in competing against athletes their size.

She said there's been concern about there being "less of a team atmosphere" with merging; however, she said that she met two of her best friends, who attend River Valley, at the student section of a Raiders' game.

Referring to the Raiders, Johnson said that they're friends because of their teammates, which she thinks "speaks volumes about the co-op between these two schools."

New Buffalo girls' volleyball fall short of comeback against River Valley

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team, which was on the verge of being swept waged a stunning comeback but fell just short in their match Wednesday Sept. 27, against River Valley.

The Lady Bison, after losing the first two sets rather handily, trailed 17-11 in the third set but rallied behind the serving of juniors Benita Puskinigus and Josie Humphrey to tie the score.

New Buffalo won the set by scoring the final two points on a soft put back over the net and ace by sophomore Colleen Chlystun.

The Lady Bison led 9-3 in the fourth set but the Mustangs rallied and pulled to within one point on a kill by senior Hanah Lynch.

New Buffalo (9-7-2) scored the next six points largely behind the play of junior Jane Funk and Puskinigus then sealed the win after a point from a block at the net by Chlystun.

In the final set, the Lady Bison led 8-3 and extended their lead to six points but fell apart.

The Mustangs went on a run with help from mistakes by the Lady Bison to even the score at 13 then led 15 to 14 before New Buffalo tied the game.

River Valley scored the next two points to win the match when Lynch scored with a kill at the net and the Lady Bison allowed a ball that should have been returned easily to hit the floor.

Funk and Puskinigus led the offense with 16 and 12 kills respectively.

On defense, juniors Meagan Fatter and Riley Tertel combined for 23 digs while Funk contributed 8 digs.

Head Coach Bruce Molineaux said his players let the final set slip away by making too many mistakes and no longer attacking the ball consistently.

"They kind of played not to lose instead of being aggressive and playing to win," he said.

The loss to a tough River Valley squad was another step into a rough patch for New Buffalo on the verge of being just as competitive as the other top teams in the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference and surrounding area.

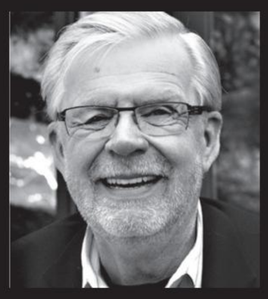
The Lady Bison split four matches in a weekend tournament at Bridgman following a four set loss to a very strong Our Lady of the Lake team earlier in the week.

Molineaux said a little more consistency on proper execution and better killer instinct might be what it takes for his team to get over the hump.

"It's hard for a team to learn how to finish the job," he said.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The Kansas City Chiefs should be in a different league than our Chicago Bears.

Sunday, the Bears lost their third straight game this season and their thirteenth straight game over two seasons, to a great team with a great quarterback and a great coach. The Bears just don't have any of those things, so they were humiliated by the Chiefs. The great teams aren't going to suddenly get worse, so it's up to the Bears to get better.

Justin Fields, the quarterback, has the physical skills to improve, Matt Eberflus, the coach, has the will to improve, and if they can both live up to the expectations that the fans have for them, they can get a lot better and the team will improve immensely. Unfortunately, if only one of them improve, neither will succeed. It's going to take smart and innovating coaching, playing to the strengths of the quarterback, for the team to compete. If the coaching starts to excel, the quarterback will have to be better mentally and make quick, decisive decisions or good coaching won't matter.

The clock is probably starting to tick on both of these gentlemen and they both seem like fine men so I hope they can start figuring things out quickly or else for the umpteenth time it will be back to the drawing board.

The baseball regular season will end Sunday. It's been an interesting year for our Chicago teams to say the least.

The White Sox, and their fans can't wait for the season to end so changes can be made and they can get back to competing next year. With six games remaining, the Sox have to win three of them to avoid 100 losses. Maybe next year they can win that many.

The Cubs also have six games remaining and each and every one is very important. As I write this column, the Cubs hold the third and final wild card position. They are one half game behind Arizona in the second spot and are being chased by Miami (one game behind) and Cincinnati (two and a half games behind). Complicating matters for the Cubs is their schedule. Three games remain against Eastern division leading Atlanta and three against Central division leading Milwaukee.

The Cubs have been on a roller coaster ride all season. They started slowly, then got going. They slumped and were almost sellers at the trade deadline, but the players, particularly Dansby Swanson, talked the front office out of giving up. The team responded beautifully and are definitely in the hunt with only one week remaining.

Whether the Cubs make the playoffs or not, the team has a solid base and quite a few youngsters on the way who appear like they will be very good players in the near future. Hopefully they can keep Cody Bellinger who will be a free agent when the season ends. After a few bad years, the Cubs are back to playing winning baseball.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar said, "You can't win unless you learn how to lose."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Raiders win high scoring nail biter

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders held on for another high school football victory in a thrilling offensive shootout not decided until there was no time left on the game clock.

The Raiders (4-1) defeated Tri Unity Christian School 52-50 in a home game at River Valley High School Friday, Sept. 22.

There were two seconds left in the game when the Defenders threw a short pass knocked down by Owen Slavens in the end zone to seal the victory for the Raiders.

The score was 36-36 about mid-way through the fourth quarter when both teams kept exchanging touchdowns.

"It was a really cool final couple of minutes of the game," said Raiders Head Coach Matt Johnson.

The Raiders were trailing with about 40 seconds left on the clock until quarterback Ethan Lijewski scored on a six yard run then made the two point conversion on a quarterback sneak.

After the kick off, the Defenders began moving the ball again then wound up on the Raiders' five yard line on a 40 yard pass completion.

No time was showing on the clock but the referees ruled Tri Unity Christian called time out before time ran out and placed two seconds back on the clock.

On the final snap, Slavens on a passing play knocked the ball to the ground before it could reach the hands of the opposing receiver in the end zone.

On defense, the Raiders had trouble with the speed of the quarterback, who gained large chunks of yardage on runs, and keeping the ball out of the hands of much taller receivers.

"We don't have a lot of height so it was tough for us to cover those guys," Johnson.

Both teams also kept exchanging leads in a high scoring first half.

The Raiders struck first on a 19 yard touchdown run by Slavens but the Defenders came right back with a 49 yard touchdown pass.

Lijewski set up the next score for the Raiders by rushing for a 45 yard gain before M'Nason Smothers following a 15 yard gain on a running play took the ball on a hand off seven yards into the end zone.

The Raiders trailed 28-22 at halftime.

Lijewski completed seven of 14 passes for 90 yards while gaining another 278 yards on 31 carries.

Slavens ran the ball for 74 yards on six carries while Smothers after a quick start finished with 43 yards on 14 carries.

The defense was led by Vaughn Nikkel who had 11 solo tackles.

Nikkel also assisted with four other tackles and four tackles for loss of yardage.

The Golden Years of Cycling: Apple Cider Century turns 50

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

It was 50 years ago when a group of 200 avid cyclists made that first trek around the winding southwestern Michigan countryside.

Known as the Apple Cider Century, the annual ride, which begins and ends in Three Oaks, now draws over 3,000 riders.

For this year's ride, which was Sunday, Sept. 24, there were 3,200 riders.

"ACC is a nationally known bike ride - it's really something that this little old Three Oaks has so much going on that people want to come here," Joe Hinman, president pro tem of the Three Oaks Village Council, said at the unveiling of the plaque at Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks for the century's golden anniversary Friday, Sept. 22.

Hinman said that they're honoring founder Bryan Volstorf, who also served as village president for 16 years, for his years of service to the village.

"Three Oaks has a long, storied and colorful history...Bryan's been a part of keeping it on the map in the 20th century," he said.

Volstorf thanked the Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Board, who conceived the idea for the plaque.

Joan Brown and Marlene Kramer, members of the village council, did a lot of the legwork.

Volstorf thanked all the members over the years of the Three Oaks Spokes Club, of which he's the founder and which sponsors the ride.

"I might be the engineer who plans it but if I don't have the workers, the engine, it's not going anywhere...This plaque is yours, there's no 'I' in 'we,' we did this together and I'm very proud of all of you and thank you for it," he said.

Volstorf thanked the 15 different volunteer groups, adding that the club's 40-some members become 400 workers when it's time for the ACC.

The nonprofit groups are each given $1,000 to pass out packets and food and pick up trash.

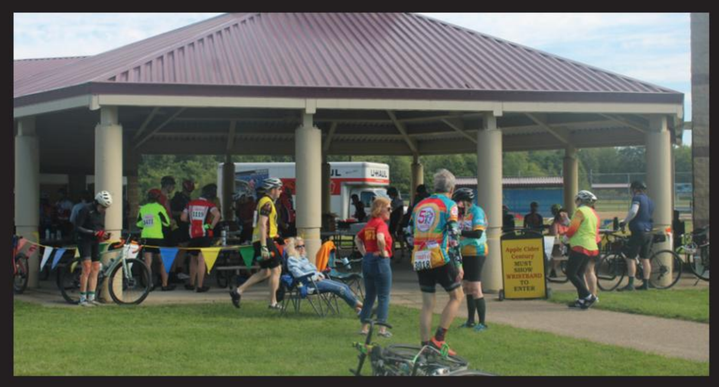
"We've given out over $500,000 over the last 50 years to nonprofit groups," Volstorf said.

Police and medic personnel also pitch in for the big day.

Volstorf's whole family pitches in: His daughter, Marsha Salensky and husband, Bill, handle the graphic design and computer work for registration and his son, Bill, and his wife register everyone, sell T-shirts and set up tables.

Cyclists ride down Krueger Road

Susan and Pete Rahm and Julie Flick from the Lions Club feed riders at Oselka Park



Cyclists gather at the pavilion at Oselka Park

Andrew Ward and daughter, Juliette, are raring to go

Police ensure cyclists cross safely on Elm Street in Three Oaks

Valentina, 7, who rode 15 miles this year and has been increasing by five miles each year, poses with mom Keary Hall

The Peck family enjoys breakfast made by the Three Oaks Fire Department

Alicia Healy, Anne Matheny, Jill Power and Mollie Reed pose by the start and finish line

New Buffalo Township Fire Chief Jamie Flick and Dan Mandelis of the Three Oaks Fire Department flip pancakes for riders

Bryan Volstorf poses by the plaque

Cyclists gather for breakfast at the Three Oaks firehouse

Ava and August Johnson feed riders at Oselka Park

Cyclists and their pets take off in Three Oaks

Cyclists get refueled at Oselka Park

Cyclists take off in Three Oaks

Cyclists gather at the start and finish line

Cyclists arrive at Oselka Park

Members of the Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club pose with Bryan Volstorf by the plaque

His wife, Carol, "tolerates" him for doing the ride.

"Once September hits, I'm 24/7 Apple Cider Century," Volstorf said.

Hearkening back to the ride's humble beginnings, this year's 15, 25, 50, 75 and 100-mile bicycle tour began and ended at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

As the numbers grew, it relocated to Three Oaks Elementary School in 1980.

In 1974, Volstorf formed the Three Oaks Bicycle Spokes Club. In 2006, the club got a physical presence at 3 Central Avenue in Three Oaks. Volstorf, who had ridden around Lake Michigan in 1971 and '72, said some of the locals suggested forming a bicycle club.

In January 1974, 12 people joined - but not one of them was the one who suggested that he form the club.

"I remind them of that - 'That was 50 years ago, look what you did,'" Volstorf said.

That spring, the club had a heart fund bike-a-thon, which took $900 to put on. It raised $4,000 for the American Heart Association. Thinking it's what he needed to do, Volstorf sent all the money to the association and "didn't take out all the expenses."

September was Century Month for the League of American Wheelmen (now League of American Bicyclists). After talking to local orchard owners, Volstorf learned that apples and ciders aren't available until the end of the month.

"So we decided to have the ride at the end of September," he said.

The ACC, which only had 25, 50 and 100 mile routes back then, kept doubling in numbers. One year, it jumped to 3,500 riders. For six straight years, it peaked at 7,000 riders.

Volstorf said the numbers are now between 4,000 and 5,000, which is "comfortable."

Cycling looks different now than it did 50 years ago. Volstorf said that he was the last one in the club to get a helmet. This year, ACC debuted GPS routing for riders.

As for the 79-year-old Volstorf, he's changed as well. While he still enjoys hitting the road on his bicycle, he admits he's "slowed down a little bit."

It's ACC's supporters who keep him going, though, he said at the plaque's unveiling.

"The most favorite movie of mine is 'It's a Wonderful Life,' and Clarence the angel writes in the book, 'No man is a failure who has friends...' I consider you all friends and in the end, it makes me feel like the richest man in town," he said.

HIKERS PLANS FALL COLORS HIKE AT LOVE CREEK

The Harbor Country Hikers will hold the first of three hikes in Berrien County parks on Saturday, Sept. 30, at Love Creek Park.

The hike will get underway at 1 p.m. and will be led by a county parks naturalist.

Those who attend will get a look at early fall colors and learn about how Southwest Michigan's wildlife prepares for winter. Natural features of Love Creek include about 200 acres of meadows, mature forests and marshes. The hike will cover approximately two miles of hilly trails and is rated moderate to difficult.

Subsequent hikes in county parks will include Madeline Bertrand and Galien River in October. Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend.

Love Creek is in Berrien Center, Michigan. Attendees are advised to dress for the weather, wear a sun hat and sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent, and to bring plenty of water.

For additional information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.com, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

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Representatives from Operation LifeSaver and the city, township, county and school gather in the gym

'Operation Lifesaver' gives refresher course on rail safety

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Seeing as how it was Rail Safety Week in Michigan, New Buffalo Railroad Museum arranged for students at New Buffalo Elementary School to get schooled in railroad safety by members of Operation Lifesaver Thursday, Sept. 21.

Students were reminded of train safety tips, such as how cars must stop at a line and wait for a train to pass through and that if a car is stalled on the tracks or you see something wrong, you can call an 800 number (which also lists the address of the crossing) that's on a sign at the crossing.

Michigan Operation Lifesaver is an active, continuous public information and education program designed to help prevent crashes at highway/rail gradecrossings. According to www.community. oli. org/state/mi, the three "E's" of Operation Lifesaver are: Education, Engineering and Enforcement.

Richard Burn from Operation Lifesaver talks railroad safety

New Buffalo Railroad Museum President Vannessa Holecek Thun hands out goody bags to students

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Three Oaks Library hosting Hobby Horse DIY

Three Oaks Township Public Library will be hosting a Beginner Hobby Horse DIY & Mini-Tournament for children at noon Saturday, Sept. 30.

Participants will be making their own hobby horses and then have a one-division tournament. Attendance will be limited. Participants must pre-register by calling 756-5621 or emailing director@threeoakslibrary.org

Story Time during Summer Reading at Three Oaks Township Public Library is on Tuesdays from 10:30 – 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 4:30 – 5 p.m.

Take & Make bags for children are available on a first come, first served, basis.

The Knitting & Crocheting Circle meets on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Individuals of all skill levels are invited to bring their projects. — STAFF REPORTS

Converge's 'Come and Play Cafe' beginning next week

Converge Community Church will open its doors to the city's children by relaunching a free weekly playdate at the facility's indoor playground from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays beginning Oct. 5 until May 23.

Children ages 5 and under, along with parents or caregivers, are invited to "come and play. Children can play in a clean, safe, climate controlled area, while their attending adults relax and converse over free coffee beverages.

The weekly event was such a hit last season that Converge has decided to offer the program again this year. The only change is that Come & Play Café will begin in October, much earlier than the launch last January, so it will run the entirety of the cold weather months.

The program will be consistent with the New Buffalo Area Schools calendar.

For questions, contact the church at 269-426-4466. The church is located at 601 W. Buffalo Street in New Buffalo.— STAFF REPORTS

Heavy losses in auto graveyard fire

BY STAN MADDUX

Investigators are looking into the cause of a fire at what could be mistaken as a huge motor vehicle grave yard in Michigan City.

Vintage fire engines were among the countless number of vehicles on the property.

Firefighters responded at about 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, to the blaze on Meer Road just north of Tryon Road on the city's far east side.

Michigan City Fire Department spokesperson Tia Free said a large pole barn and garage along with the vehicles inside them were fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

Vehicles closest to the burning structure were also heavily damaged from the spreading flames, which also caught numerous trees on fire in a nearby woods.

Free said there were so many vehicles on the grounds an excavator had to be used to push some of the automobiles out of the way to clear a path for firefighters to reach the burning structures.

Some of the vehicles had trees growing through them from being parked on the property for so long.

Katrina Croy, 34, said her teenage daughter was at a friend's house close to the site when she rushed over there after learning about the blaze.

"There was probably 30 to 40 foot flames. A massive amount of smoke plume. There's hundreds, if not, a thousand cars back there," she said.

"That's our guess but we don't have an official count," she said.

Free said the owner told investigators he purchased the property 25 years ago and kept adding vehicles to his collection.

His reason for stockpiling the vehicles was not known.

Free said there was a mixture of antique and newer vehicles along with a couple of vintage fire engines.

Many of the vehicles were heavily rusted due to age and years of exposure to the elements.

Some of the automobiles had busted windows.

"Just a huge array of vehicles," she said.

Free said there were no injuries.

Firefighters were on the scene for about four hours.

Free said the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office was assisting in trying to uncover the cause of the blaze.

CHAMBER SNIPS RIBBON AT NEIGHBORHOOD HOTEL NEW BUFFALO

Members of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Neighborhood Hotels' newest Harbor Country location, Neighborhood Hotel New Buffalo, at 18 W Merchant Street to the neighborhood during a ribbon-cutting Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Neighborhood Hotel New Buffalo is the newest addition to the portfolio of Neighborhood Hotels in Grand Beach and West Loop, Little Italy and Lincoln Park Illinois. According to a press release, the apartment-style hotels are founded by travel enthusiasts who enjoy spaces that inspire, comfort and fuel. The hotels can host any kind of group getaway, from corporate retreats to family reunions to corporate events.

Partner Jonathan Gordon said in the release the property only needed a "light renovation to modernize the facilities and bring the nine-room hotel into The Neighborhood brand offering a complementary experience to our Grand Beach property."

To book an experience at a Neighborhood Hotel, visit www.theneighborhoodhotel.com, Instagram or Facebook. — STAFF REPORTS

Members of the chamber cut the ribbon on The Neighborhood Hotel New Buffalo

HOROSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 4, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

This is a very auspicious week for financial improvements and money-making opportunities as you will be receiving a nice psychic boost. Also, there is a chance you may become emotionally charged in the romance department and you could be coming on way too strong. Take it slow.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You have the ability to see both sides of the issue but you have a desire to rule the roost which could lead to indecisiveness and a defensive attitude. Be completely honest with yourself and don't just go along with previously agreed upon terms to keep peace or your power position.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Guard against laziness by focusing on cooperation and sharing the work. Expressing your vision with others and delegating the work to those who have the know how will relieve a lot of the pressure and help you meet deadlines. Stay on a mental level and take time to articulate your ideas.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The opportunity to increase your resources and make good impressions on romantic partners is here! You may feel more emotional than usual and want to avoid social interactions but if you open up and express yourself you will find people are very receptive and more inclined to support you now.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Get your cook books out and light the fires. Your home will have more people in it this week and you could take in a stray. Your powers of concentration are increasing and your thoughts will happily turn to family and domestic issues. Creating stability for others brings you the most satisfaction now.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

The ability to multi-task will be your most important asset this week. There are many things to do and you could be feeling a little scattered brained if you stay focused on anything for too long. Expect to be revisited by people or work from the past or the same issues may resurface again.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

People will be expecting you to take control and may place you in charge even when you have nothing to do with the issue. You are being looked up to so don't let your ego dominate instead motivate and create a strong team. In matters of the heart expect a delayed reaction over the weekend.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

If you have been "mulling over" some happening it is time to be more direct and outspoken about your interpretations of the situation. The energy coming at you now will increase your competitive edge giving you the courage to go directly after what you want. Finances will stabilize.

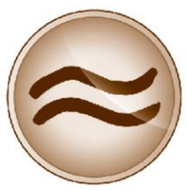
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

It is important you examine the past as it may hold the answer to your current issue. Move past previous thought patterns and expand your understanding of self and where you want to be in life. You are in total control of your experiences. Affairs that start in the dark are better left with the night.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You are entering a very social period. Even though you will be surrounded by people you may feel slightly detached and unsure of exactly how you fit in. You will be inclined to stay impersonal and won't want to get too involved or into too deep of conversations. It's okay to hold back.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



It's time to get some hard to discuss issues out in the open at work. Don't worry about your reputation or how your boss will react. Be brave and dive deeper into the issues. In the end people will look up to you and develop a deeper respect for you. Talk more at work and get ready for change.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You have a lot of excess energy now and this can be directed in many ways to benefit your health and wellbeing. Your will-power will get a serious boost and this is an excellent time to start exercising as you will find it easier than ever to stick to it over the long haul. Change things up!

A bet on Masayoshi Son is a bet on AI.
— Dino N. Fatouros

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

				5				
			8					
8	4				2			1
7	8		3		4		2	
		2		1			6	
								7
2					3	1	7	6
	5		7					
		4					3	2

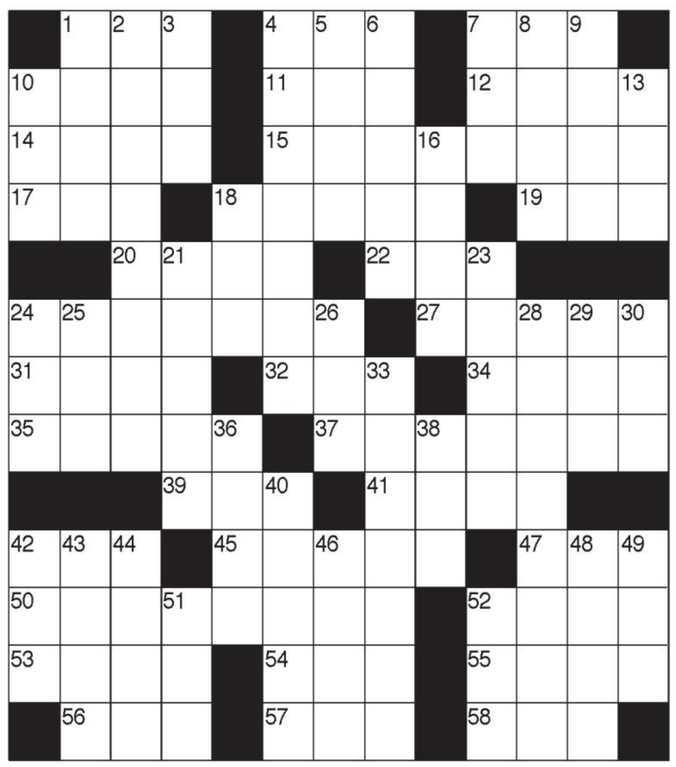
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Federal Bureau of Investigation (abbr.)
4 Political action committee (abbr.)
7 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
10 Soapstone
11 Wood sorrel
12 Action (suf.)
14 Animal teeth (suf.)
15 Threadlike
17 Female rabbit
18 Charger
19 Bird's display area
20 Betel leaf concoction
22 Moon vehicle (abbr.)
24 Hairdo
27 Called
31 Gentleman (Ger.)
32 Used to express negation
34 Hindu princess
35 The Buddha's birth country
37 One of the Seven Hills of Rome
39 Television channel
41 Care for
42 Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)
45 Woman's work basket
47 Condition (suf.)
50 Cob (2 words)
52 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
53 Wound crust
54 Mother of Hezekia
55 Bleach
56 Poetic contraction
57 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
58 Eastern church chalice veil

DOWN

1 Port. folk tune
2 Jay (2 words)
3 Science of (suf.)
4 Floating bridge
5 Afr. fruit
6 Ruminant
7 Mulberry of India
8 Indigo dye
9 Skin eruption
10 Fox (Scot.)
13 Mouse-spotter's cry
16 Arabian Sea gulf
18 With (pref.)
21 Finn. language
23 Sea (Fr.)
24 Greek letter
25 Partlet
26 Month abbr.
28 Jaw bone
29 Last Queen of Spain
30 Arabic letter
33 Moon of Uranus
36 First principles
38 Fr. pronoun
40 Hindu month
42 Ger. spa
43 Speed
44 Wings
46 Endearment
48 River into the Moselle
49 Compass direction
51 Compass direction
52 Braz. tree



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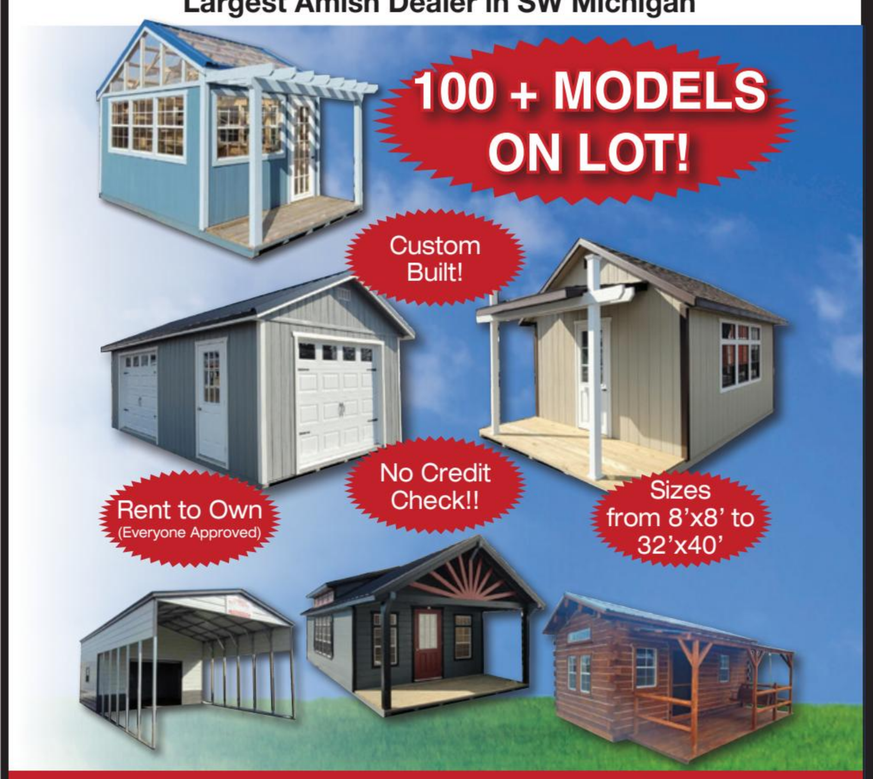

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PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-108 was adopted on the 20th day of September, 2023, entitled "An ordinance to adopt and regulate cross connections to the public water supply system of the Village of Grand Beach, regulating connections of arrangements of piping or appurtenances through which water of questionable quality, wastes, or other contaminants can enter the public water supply for the benefit of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Village of Grand Beach".

A full copy of Ordinance Number 2023-108 is on file at the Clerk's Office, Village of Grand Beach, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, Michigan 49117 and available online at grandbeach.org.

This Ordinance shall become effective October 10, 2023.

MARY J. ROBERTSON
CLERK-TREASURER

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-109 was adopted on the 20th day of September, 2023, entitled "An ordinance to amend ordinance 52, an ordinance establishing minimum property safety and sanitary standards, to repeal section D(2) regarding periodic pool inspections of all pools in the Village by the Village Building Inspector".

Section 1. Section D, Swimming pools, Section 2, "Inspection", is hereby repealed in its entirety.

A full copy of Ordinance Number 2023-109 is on file at the Clerk's Office, Village of Grand Beach, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, Michigan 49117 and available online at grandbeach.org.

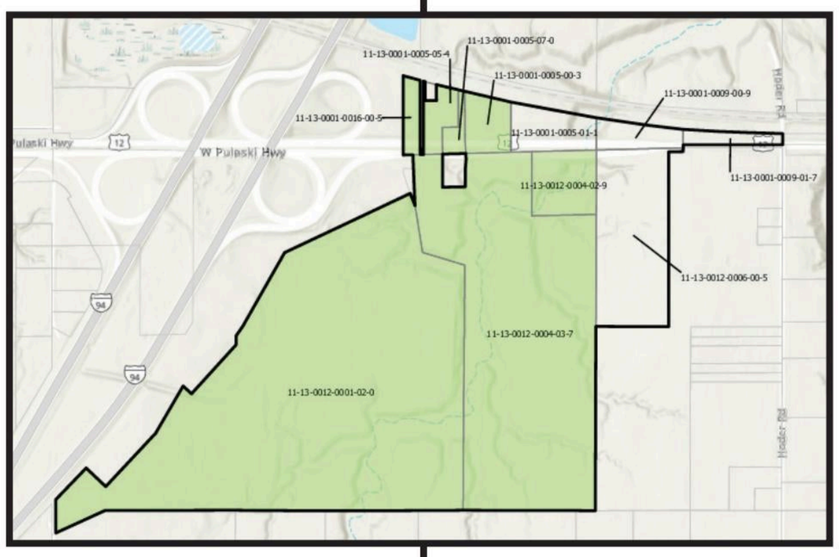
This Ordinance shall become effective October 10, 2023.

MARY J. ROBERTSON
CLERK-TREASURER

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO TO ALL OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING-DESCRIBED LANDS:

Parcel ID Number:

11-13-0001-0009-01-7
11-13-0012-0006-00-5
11-13-0001-0009-00-9
11-13-0012-0004-02-9
11-13-0001-0005-01-1
11-13-0012-0004-03-7
11-13-0001-0005-00-3
11-13-0001-0005-05-4
11-13-0001-0005-07-0
11-13-0001-0016-00-5
11-13-0012-0001-02-0



TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, the Township Board has received petitions signed by record owners of land constituting more than 50% of the total land in the proposed special assessment district comprised of the lands described above, and has tentatively declared its intention to proceed with the public improvements described as follows:

The acquisition and construction of water and sanitary sewer improvements to extend water and sewer mains along US-12 from existing Township facilities on Hoder Road west within the MDOT right of way to the I-94 interchange, together with all necessary interests in land, appurtenances and attachments thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has tentatively declared its intention to make such improvement and tentatively designated the above-described premises as a special assessment district against which at least a part of the cost of said public improvements is to be assessed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has caused to be prepared plans showing the public improvements, the location thereof and an estimate of the cost thereof which have been filed with the office of the Township Clerk, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan, for public examination.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board will meet on Monday, the 16th day of October, 2023, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, at the Township Offices, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan, to hear objections to the petitions, the public improvements and the proposed special assessment district therefor.

JUDITH H. ZABICKI
TOWNSHIP CLERK

9	2	7	4	5	1	6	8	3
3	1	6	8	7	9	2	5	4
8	4	5	6	3	2	7	9	1
7	8	1	3	6	4	9	2	5
5	3	2	9	1	7	4	6	8
4	6	9	2	8	5	3	1	7
2	9	8	5	4	3	1	7	6
1	5	3	7	2	6	8	4	9
6	7	4	1	9	8	5	3	2

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C	H	I	G	N	O	N	■	N	A	M	E	D
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■	E	E	N	■	N	E	A	■	A	E	R	■

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Runners, walkers fired up about public safety at annual 5K

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For the second year, members of the community and beyond showed how much they appreciate those who put their lives on the line to keep them safe at the Friends of New Buffalo Township Fire's Fired Up 5K Saturday, Sept. 23.

The 69 runners/walkers began on Community Hall Road in Union Pier, running along the nonmotorized path along Red Arrow Highway and the meandering paths throughout Union Pier before returning to the finish line on Community Hall Road.

Everyone gathered at Timothy's Restaurant, where awards were given to the following top female/male finishers.

Overall male runner as well as the overall runner was Ethan Saylor with a time of 16:27.3 and overall female was Jennifer Brannigan Ward with a time of 25:52.4.

Ethan, who's 19, of Dowagiac managed to place next to his 23-year-old brother, Alec, who placed second overall.

"I sent him out to beat the competition and I can follow up," Alec said, adding that they're a "brotherly team."

Ethan said that they run together sometimes.

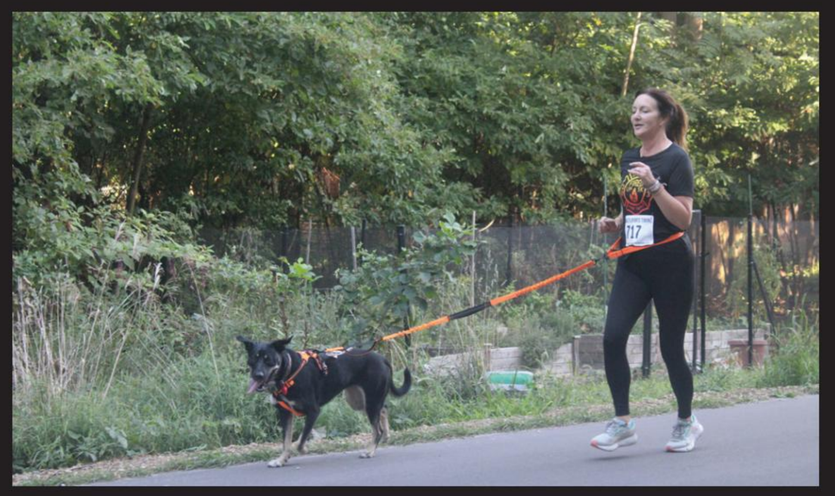
"I'm off at college now so I don't train as much, so I try to find some road races here and there," he said.

The following overall runners were awarded in the following age categories: males 14 and under, C. Hart, 25:57.7; females 14 and under, L. Drexler, 31:38.8; males 20-29, Alec Saylor, 16:35.9; females 20-29, Puja Patel, 30:43.3; males 30-39, Luke Atkinson, 23:44.3; females 30-39, Anne Kurze, 31:39.0; males 40-49, Chris Walsh, 23:37.7; females 40-49, Amanda Brunke, 27:31.9; males 50-59, Andy Behrens, 21:06.5; females 50-59, Amy Bourne, 26:04.2; males 60 and over, Michael Piotrowski, 23:52.9 and females 60 and over, Marianne Groth, 46:19.5.

Fire chief Jamie Flick said that some of the 5K's proceeds will go toward Rapid Intervention Gear, which is used if needed to go in and perform a rescue if a "firefighter goes down." Last year, they purchased two drysuits for water rescue hats and other station gear.

"It helps us out quite a bit and takes some of the burden off of always going to the township to get items," he said.

David Yang and Chris Walsh cross the finish line



Anna Wulff runs with her dog down the back roads

Ethan Saylor crosses the finish line

Runners race down the back roads of Union Pier

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit thanks runners and walkers at Timothy's

Sabina Shaikh gets a high five after crossing the finish line

Alec Saylor crosses the finish line

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office motorcycle unit leads the race

Runners race down the back roads of Union Pier

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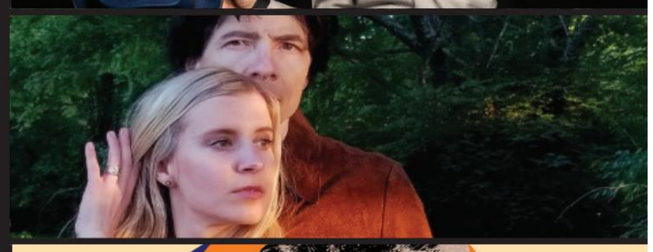
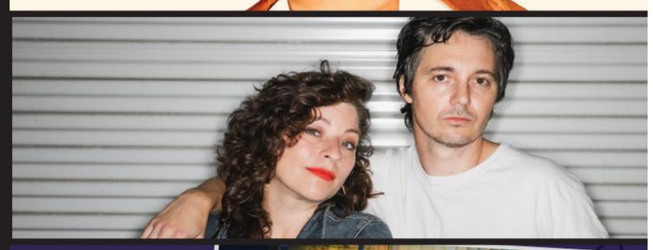


Rodney Crowell: The Chicago Sessions Tour
with Special Guest Laurel Lewis
SUN 10/1 7 P.M. ET

Meagan McNeal
"Do it with Love" Benefit Concert for Neighbor by Neighbor
FRI 10/6 8 P.M. ET

An Evening with Shovels & Rope
SAT 10/7 8 P.M. ET



Boo Ball featuring Expo '76 and The Shams Band
SAT 10/28 8 P.M. ET

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